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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 09, 2012

PETER A. DeFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

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WATER AND POWER

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

I am writing to you in support of your decision to conduct a Watershed Assessment for Bristol Bay, Alaska. I have heard from many of my constituents and residents of Oregon who are concerned about the dangers posed by the proposed Pebble Mine, which would be built at Bristol Bay's headwaters. These commercial fishermen, small business owners, and concerned private citizens recognize the need to protect our nation's greatest wild salmon resource. I share their perspective.

As you know, Bristol Bay is an important economic driver for the state of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. It creates over 12,000 jobs and produces over \$500 million in revenue annually. Sport fishing in Bristol Bay alone generates \$60 million each year and sustains more than 800 full-time and part-time jobs. It helps to support an outdoor industry that employs guides, outfitters and manufacturers in the State of Oregon and from around the country.

When evaluating the potential risk that large scale mining could have on a fishery as important as Bristol Bay, it is essential to gather and evaluate the best available science before making a decision. The Watershed Assessment your agency is undertaking is essential to that process. Should this scientific review determine that pollution from a large scale mine would have unacceptable impacts on water quality and fish stocks, I would support efforts by the EPA to protect Bristol Bay.

Thanks for your efforts and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you to protect one of the most productive and pristine fisheries in the United States.

Sincerely,

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress